

NSC BRIEFING

8 MARCH 1950

BACKGROUND--GRUENTHER REPORT

- I. French are committed to maintain 7 divisions in readiness as their contribution to NATO "cover" forces. Of these seven, only five are actually available.
- A. Four are on garrison duty in Germany (five should be there, but one has already been moved to North Africa).
- B. One is in eastern France (two should be there, but one has already been moved).
- C. Both these divisions moved to N. Africa since last summer.
- II. The five remaining "cover" divisions, in turn, have been nibbled down since last summer to provide units for North Africa, and bigger bites are planned through March '56. The Gruenther report summarizes all these past and planned transfers as follows:
- A. In Germany:
- 1st Armored Div. will lose 3 battalions.
 - 5th Armored Div. will lose 1 battalion.
 - 3rd Div. will lose 1 regiment of infantry.
 - 4th Motorized Div. is already in North Africa.
 - 7th Mechanized Div. will lose replacements and suffer reductions.
- B. In France the level of "M-Day" forces has been (or will be) affected thus:
- 2nd Motorized Div. is already in North Africa.
 - 6th Armored Div. will lose 4 battalions.
- C. Effect on French Army units in France with "M-Day Plus?" NATO assignments is as follows (percentages include recruits in training):
- 8th Div. now has 7 of 9 battalions in North Africa.
 - 15th Div (at 30% war strength) will lose one third of its trained manpower.

25th Div (at 55% of war strength) now has about one half of trained manpower in North Africa.

19th and 27th Divs. have been activated and sent to North Africa.

29th Div. (at 15% of war strength) has "considerable portion" of trained men in North Africa.

III. Thus NATO forces are reduced from 7 to 4..

A. Further, the mobilization base of entire French army is severely undermined.